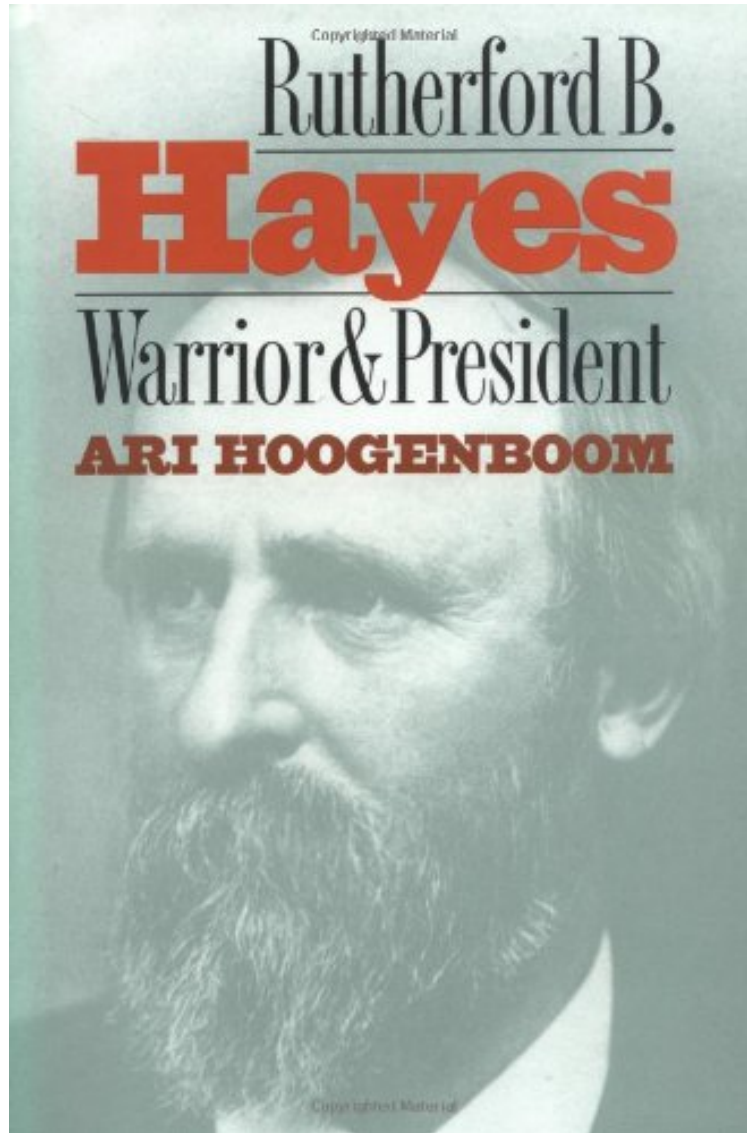


[Download ebook] Rutherford B. Hayes: Warrior and President

Rutherford B. Hayes: Warrior and President

Ari Hoogenboom

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#196208 in Books University Press of Kansas 1995-01-27Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.54 x 2.06 x 6.52l, 2.53 #File Name: 0700606416712 pages | File size: 75.Mb

Ari Hoogenboom : Rutherford B. Hayes: Warrior and President before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rutherford B. Hayes: Warrior and President:

13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Complete in its research, somewhat jaded, but wonderful bookBy Sean ClaycampMy nearly 10-year journey to read a biography of every President is almost over! And, no it hasn't taken me this long to read that many books because I haven't been able to read Presidential bios exclusively.So now that I'm in the short rows as they say, I'm stuck with reading bios of Presidents like Rutherford B Hayes. I didn't know

a thing about him nor did I know a whole lot about what happened during his Presidency... other than it was post Civil War, pre-1900s America. With all that in mind, I must commend the author on writing an interesting and readable bio of a President who it appears is underrated as a person and as a leader. The book was very thorough and spent a lot of time dealing with key, non-political, issues such as Hayes' tremendous military career and his strong relationship with wife Lucy. It also did a great job of detailing his influence over the Republican party prior to and after his Presidency. I agree with the author who suggested that Hayes' biggest mistake was sticking to his one-term pledge. He would probably be recognized as one of our better Presidents would he have served two terms. His pledge to minimize patronage and reform the civil service was stunted by his successor, James Garfield, who was actually assassinated by a jilted patronage seeker. A lot of what he did was then "undone" by Chet Arthur and the Roscoe Conkling syndicate. Hayes doesn't get a lot of credit because the things he accomplished or put the country on the road to accomplishing weren't "sexy." The author does a great job of detailing his accomplishments and then tells you why they were important. You could make the case that the author's view of Hayes is slanted toward the positive. I wouldn't argue with that. However, Hayes appears to be a good person who tried to be honest and do what was right in nearly every case. He was a huge proponent of civil rights, suffrage, Indian rights, and other causes that could be deemed as liberal by today's views. The author labels him as one of the first progressives - are you listening Glenn Beck - but to me he seems the first civil libertarian perhaps. He was a person who looked at the merits of each issue and tried to apply the Golden Rule to politics, which was something that was needed after the lackluster Presidency of U.S. Grant and the somewhat criminal Presidency of Andrew Johnson. Not sure how a President such as Hayes would survive in today's toxic political climate, but the author certainly does a thorough job in painting him as the kind of guy you hope your sister would marry. And, the kind of guy that as an American did his best for all Americans. I would recommend this biography as THE bio you should read of Hayes. It is long, so be ready for some in depth reading, but for the advanced history buff I think this is an enjoyable and fair read. 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A pro-Hayes work By O. Pflug One of my favorite biographies, Ari Hoogenboom's "Hayes" is a positive and incisive look at the 19th president. Hayes is the prototypical Midwesterner, successful, yet humble, proper and reform minded, but not priggish or censorious. Hayes had a genuine concern for humanity and America. Though limited in the lengths he would travel to enact social changes we would today deem necessary (or that he himself would wish for), Hayes should be better-remembered. Hoogenboom's work is quite thorough, covering both Hayes's political and personal life. Hayes has been criticized for giving up on Reconstruction and thus dooming blacks to a century of repression, but Hayes had genuine concern for blacks. However, by 1877 Hayes was quite limited in what he could do politically to maintain Reconstruction. Hayes was traditionally criticized for doing little to address the growing inequalities of the American economy. But, although he did help put down nation-wide strikes, Hayes was more sympathetic to labor than any other late 19th century president. I was also surprised to read about the extensive post-presidency work of Hayes, comparable to Jimmy Carter. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A complete and great reading book By Frederick A. Dias A complete and great reading book. I bet not many know that Hayes was the champion of reform in the workforce.

Who was the real Rutherford B. Hayes? Was he a great or inconsequential president? How did his early life and career shape his later years? How did his triumphs and failures alter our history? And why should we care? Ari Hoogenboom's masterful life of Hayes definitively answers those questions and shows why our nineteenth president deserves far greater recognition than he's received in the past. The first biography of Hayes in nearly fifty years, Hoogenboom's book recreates the rapidly changing world of Victorian America as experienced by one of its most reflective and perceptive figures. The Hayes that emerges is a much more progressive and far-sighted leader than previously suggested. He was, Hoogenboom argues, neither a Southern sympathizer nor an exemplar of the "Greedy Gilded Age." Rather, he was a devout, pragmatic champion of equal rights. Hayes's colorful life was rooted in his frontier experiences in Ohio and galvanized on Civil War battlefields, where he survived five wounds and was ultimately promoted to major general. No other president was under fire on the front lines as much as Hayes. Hayes's image as president (1877-1881), however, has not been quite so shining. He has been blamed for Reconstruction's failure and damned for an apparent bargain that guaranteed his election in exchange for withdrawing military support of Republican governments in the South. He has also been criticized for championing the gold standard, for breaking the Great Strike of 1877, for inconsistent support of civil-service reform, and for being an ineffectual politician. Hoogenboom contends that these evaluations are largely false. Previous scholars, he says, have failed to appreciate Hayes's limited options and have misrepresented his actions in their depictions of an overly cautious, nonvisionary president. In fact, he was strikingly modern in his efforts to enlarge the power of the office, which he used as his own bully pulpit to rouse public support for his goals. Chief among these goals, Hoogenboom shows, was equality for all Americans. Throughout his presidency and long afterwards, Hayes worked steadfastly for reforms that would encourage economic opportunity, distribute wealth more equitably, diminish the conflict between capital and labor, and ultimately enable African-Americans to achieve political equality. Although he fell far short of his ideals, his unwavering commitment deserves our attention and respect.

From Publishers Weekly To critics, U.S. president Rutherford B. Hayes (1822-1893) was an aloof, inept politician, but this revisionist biography limns a pragmatic reformer, supporter of civil rights and precursor of the Progressive movement. As a Cincinnati lawyer, Hayes defended runaway slaves; as a crusading antislavery Civil War colonel, he served bravely and was wounded five times. Three-time Republican governor of Ohio, Hayes secured his state's ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, guaranteeing the vote to all races. President Hayes has been accused of brutally crushing the Great Strike of 1877, but Hoogenboom, professor of history at the City University of New York, argues that he called out federal troops against striking railway workers only at the behest of state and local authorities. Hayes's abandonment of Reconstruction by withdrawing troops from the South ended a failed policy that had unwittingly polarized politics along racial lines, in Hoogenboom's assessment. Despite Hayes's commitment to equality for all Americans, one is left with the impression that his administration was, at best, merely efficient. Photos. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Enlarging his earlier book on Hayes's presidency (*The Presidency of Rutherford B. Hayes*, Univ. Pr. of Kansas, 1988), historian Hoogenboom casts Hayes as a reformer, an advocate for equal rights, and a masterful politician. From his conversion to an antislavery stance through his law career in Ohio to his military service during the Civil War, Hayes grew in his commitment to human rights. As president of the United States (1877-81), he used the veto and appointive powers in new ways and the bully pulpit to protect freedmen and workers. In his retirement, he lobbied for prison reform, veterans' benefits, and education for the poor. Although the Hayes presented is more prescient and principled than his record of achievement would show, all readers will appreciate Hoogenboom's larger view of the man and his time. Burdensome detail sometimes overwhelms and obscures the argument, but this revision merits attention. For academi libraries. Randall M. Miller, St. Joseph's Univ., Philadelphia Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Rutherford B. Hayes was an important president who has long deserved a full modern treatment of his career. Ari Hoogenbooms well-researched, engrossing, and multi-faceted account of Hayess life as a soldier and politician is a significant contribution to the historical literature on the American presidency. It is also a first-rate example of political biography at its best." Lewis L. Gould, author of *The Presidency of William McKinley* and *The Presidency of Theodore Roosevelt* "From antislavery lawyer to Union general and Republican politician, Hayes's career was intertwined with the major issues of slavery, war, and reunion. As president he struggled with the issues of Reconstruction and the emerging industrial order, always seeking to do the right thing; as an ex-president, he endeavored to preserve the past and prepare for the future. In this comprehensive biography, Hoogenboom rescues Hayes from undeserved obscurity and tells us much not only about the man but also about the times in which he lived. Hoogenbooms skilled rendering of the life of the nineteenth president promises to be definitive, restoring Hayes to his rightful place in American history as a representative of his era." Brooks Simpson, author of *Let Us Have Peace: Ulysses S. Grant and the Politics of War and Reconstruction, 1861-1868* "Compels fresh respect for both the man and his times." Allan Peskin, author of *Garfield* "An exceptional study: revisionist, comprehensive, and, to a surprising extent, relevant. A superb job." Les Fishel, former director of the Hayes Library